

Interest Area: Professional Development **OPPORTUNITIES**

- Better qualified teachers
- Increased professionalism of the workforce
- Enhanced child development and increased program quality

Interest Area: Professional Development

CHALLENGES

- Provide career ladder opportunities
- Meeting the requirements for higher levels of education
- Require at least two staff for every 20 children to have a minimum of a CDA or Equivalent

Interest Area: Professional Development

STRATEGIES

- Develop and implement an articulation plan that works, with no dead ends and with agreements with institutions of higher education
- Alternate routes to credentialing/certification, such as credit for work experience and competency assessment
- Appropriate adequate funding to support professional development, e.g., scholarships, wages, pay scale based on level of education, consistency across all programs

Interest Area: Accountability and Assessment

OPPORTUNITIES

- Give parents the assessment information they need to plan for their children
- Streamline child assessments between PreK and Kindergarten systems
- Generate the data about program quality and children's learning that we need to improve services and outcomes for children

Interest Area: Accountability and Assessment CHALLENGES

WE MUST OVERCOME THESE CHALLENGES:

- Fund assessment tools, curricula, and training for teachers
- Make a statewide system of accountability using a variety of child assessment instruments, but with one purpose
- Reconcile the need for child assessments linked to curricula and teaching, with single-score testing useful for outcome evaluation of programs
- Raise the standards for programs using accreditation and program instruments like the ECERS-R or ELLCO

Interest Area: Accountability and Assessment

STRATEGIES

- Use research based curricula and their related assessment tools. Choose observation based assessment tools addressing social/emotional and cognitive development, aligned with performance standards and considerate of cultural variations.
- Fund UPK adequately for the purchase of assessment tools, linked curricula, and training for teaching staff.
- Establish clear guidelines for the use of assessment data in assisting children. When assessments identify children with developmental challenges, provide inclusion support and links to social and support services.

Interest Area: Curriculum & Learning Environment

OPPORTUNITIES

- Useable curricula
- Level playing field for all children, incl sp needs
- Parent awareness
- Wider base of students
- Providers working on same goal
- Education based on research
- All parents have choice
- Hold teachers accountable and more teachers qualified
- Creating true quality
- National model
- Low ratio
- Alignment with Kg standards
- Uniform equipment needs
- Character development
- State standards, yet flexible

Interest Area: Curriculum & Learning Environment

CHALLENGES

- Parent expectations
- Materials and equipment
- Respect and professional value of provider
- Public awareness
- Maintain quality while expanding slots
- Lack of qualified staff
- Assessment or test?
- Understanding dev. Appro. Practice
- Money to pay teachers for degrees
- Time constraints
- Finding research based curriculum
- Integration of special needs children
- Diversity
- Funding
- Agency regulation
- Physical environ.
- Inclusion
- Staff retention
- Student retention
- Selecting curriculum
- Length of day
- Non-English speaking children, staff work
- Accreditation timeline

Interest Area: Curriculum & Learning Environment

STRATEGIES

- Ensure that PreK is age appropriate
- Uniform training on standards and assessment
- Ensure full funding for UPK

Interest Area: Serving Children with Disabilities, Special Needs & Non-English Speaking Families

OPPORTUNITIES

- Inclusion in least restrictive natural environment.
- Early identification of special needs.
- Increase parent involvement of non-English speaking parents.
- Partnerships between agencies.

Interest Area: Serving Children with Disabilities, Special Needs & Non-English Speaking Families

CHALLENGES

- Serving children without labeling.
- Providers accepting children with severe disabilities.
- Funding. 10% of the additional 90,000 UPK children (9000) will have special needs

Interest Area: Serving Children with Disabilities, Special Needs & Non-English Speaking Families

STRATEGIES

- Advocacy / inform legislators regarding additional costs associated with children with Special Needs due to need for increased staff, for smaller ratios and therapists.
- Increase funding through Matrix and funding directly for resource teachers (special education training) and therapists.
- Partnerships – to provide therapy in the natural environment, smooth transitions, interagency agreements/ contracts and public / private partnerships.
- Comprehensive staff development plan for ESOL and special needs that is flexible. Make it real!!!

Interest Area: Parent Involvement **OPPORTUNITIES**

- Ongoing Parent Education & events and activities for parents and their children
- Relationship building and parent socialization & networking
- Benefit of serving on teams, committees & planning groups

Interest Area: Parent Involvement

CHALLENGES

- Communication with families and shortage of time for working parents
- Cultural and language barriers
- Not Enough Funding

Interest Area: Parent Involvement

STRATEGIES

- Collaboration and outreach with a liaison to foster community ties & dollars to fund it.
- Enhance communication methods (i.e. email, websites, newsletters, daily progress reports, family resource room) and dollars to fund it
- Incentive Programs for Family participation along with dollars to fund it.

Interest Area: Service Delivery Design & Governance

OPPORTUNITIES

- To service all children
- Build professional work force
- Diversity of providers
- Maintain local control, to write the new script from the beginning
- Greater awareness from business community
- Build on momentum in local coalitions
- Technical assistance to strengthen delivery system.

Interest Area: Service Delivery Design & Governance

CHALLENGES

- Funding
- Eliminating conflict of interest
- Reducing # of coalitions
- Keeping focus also on birth – 3
- Timelines
- Staff qualifications
- Capacity
- Transition to a DOE type of structure
- Funding for extended day services
- Flexibility of parent choice
- Clarity of roles
- Impact of parent choice
- Infrastructure needs.

Interest Area: Service Delivery Design & Governance

STRATEGIES

- Support UPK Advisory Council recommendations by speaking with one voice
- Support sales tax reform to fund UPK with dollars for children services earmarked and segregated.

Interest Area: Community Partnerships

OPPORTUNITIES

- Simplified point of entry
- Build relationships around solving problems
- Opportunities to reach every child and family

Interest Area: Community Partnerships

CHALLENGES

- All standards cannot be implemented on all communities
- Lack of available funds and resources
- Alignment of all partners' goals

Interest Area: Community Partnerships

STRATEGIES

- Seek and secure grant opportunities and business partners to provide financial resources
- Public school systems and institutions of higher learning should be included as an entity in the partnership to deliver comprehensive teacher training/professional development to meet student needs
- Allow local decision-making flexibility

Program Setting: School Based Programs

OPPORTUNITIES

- Curriculum and Learning Environment
- Cost and Resources
- Cost and Resources

Program Setting: School Based Programs

CHALLENGES

- Keep developmentally appropriate practices; don't push down the kindergarten curriculum to Pre-K
- Sufficient funding and tiered reimbursement
- Maintaining the six hour day

Program Setting: School Based Programs

STRATEGIES

- Ensure that certification is in Early Childhood and in Special Needs
- Advocate for tax reform to fund UPK programs across all settings.
- Advocate for funding for a six hour day.

Program Setting: Faith-Based Programs

OPPORTUNITIES

- Have faith base curriculum on the approved list
- Allow for parental choice
- Same funding for all programs

Program Setting: Faith-Based Programs

CHALLENGES

- Restrictions, what we teach, what funding is used for, government vs board of directors for faith base community
- One year to become accredited not long enough, quality tools take longer.
- Where will we get the money for space, benefits, materials, curriculum, training and supervision?

Program Setting: Faith-Based Programs

STRATEGIES

- Faith base representative on UPK advisory council selected by faith based community
- Develop policies to insure state funding for the actual length of the program
- 4, 5 or 6 hours
- Have a fast track training program on line, home study partnering with universities, and credit for experience

Program Setting: Family Child Care Homes

OPPORTUNITIES

- Growth of large FCC home
- Increase the respect of FCC
- More care for children w/special needs

Program Setting: Family Child Care Homes

CHALLENGES

- Allowing large FCC home in all areas
- Increase professionalism of FCC providers
- Meeting the needs of FCC provider

Program Setting: Family Child Care Homes

STRATEGIES

- Leg. To include large FCC in language residential Use law
- Having incentive for training and technical assistance
- Provide education and support for FCC providers caring for children w/special needs

Program Setting: Parent/Home School Support

OPPORTUNITIES

- Parents trained to participate in developmental screenings/assessments
- Parents receive home visits from teachers, professionals, or paraprofessionals to help understand their role as teacher
- Parents participate in group meetings at, and receive materials/information from, community resource centers

Program Setting: Parent/Home School Support

CHALLENGES

- Lack of funding
- Lack of materials, supplies, technology, advocates
- Difficulty identifying children that are home-schooled (no directory available)

Program Setting: Parent/Home School Support

STRATEGIES

- Develop a home school and school system partnership (include in field trips, newsletters, resource centers, professional development opportunities)
- Provide home visiting programs to supplement home school curriculum
- Produce and provide materials in multiple languages

Program Setting: Center-Based Programs (Private Child Care)

OPPORTUNITIES

- Better quality for children
- Early childhood recognized as a profession; job expansion.
- Higher standards and improved program quality

Program Setting: Center-Based Programs (Private Child Care)

CHALLENGES

- Reliable full funding UPK
- Equity issues-teacher pay, benefits, retention; ratio disparity with 2's and 3's
- Capacity for program development; capacity for training (higher ed)

Program Setting: Center-Based Programs (Private Child Care)

STRATEGIES

- **Funding**-provide full, separate funding stream for ages birth to five for true cost of high quality care including professional development, accreditation, personnel, facilities, start-up costs to meet UPK standards, wraparound care, benefits.
- **Implementation**-Ensure that UPK legislation requires representation from all stakeholders including private providers with a realistic implementation plan that maintains the integrity of PreK.
- **Professional development**- Provide opportunities including distance learning, articulation, funding, alternate assessment, substitute funding, and non-traditional professional development, with attention to multi-lingual and multi-cultural.

Program Setting: Head Start Programs

OPPORTUNITIES

- UPK will adopt high quality standards for comprehensive services for children and families.
- More awareness, knowledge of Head Start as a model program.
- A chance to expand Head Start style parent involvement.

Program Setting: Head Start Programs

CHALLENGES

- Federal reauthorization and the uncertainty of Head Start under reauthorization.
- Maintaining a developmentally-appropriate curriculum with increasing pressure to implement less appropriate practices.
- Meeting the needs of children with social/emotional needs.

Program Setting: Head Start Programs

STRATEGIES

- Make sure Head Start has a voice and clearly communicate Head Start's position.
- Begin working with universities to expand teacher training programs.
- Use Head Start model for comprehensive services, parent involvement, and transitions.